Allocation of Funds for National Highway-49

*53. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 2141 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd August, 1995 and state:

(a) how much funds have been allotted and spent for investigation and survey of NH-49 till date;

(b) how far the survey and investigation has progressed since their sanctions;

(c) out of the provision of Rs. 31.06 crores for improvement of NH-49 during the Eighth Five Year Plan, how much amount has been allotted and spent in Kerala and Tamil Nadu respectively; and

(d) whether the Ghat section of NH-49 has been taken into consideration with special attention; if so, what steps have been taken to improve the condition of the highway in this section with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Funds are allocated to States as a whole and not work-wise. An expenditure of Rs. 35.56 lakhs has been incurred on survey and investigation of Madurai-Cochin Section of NH-49 upto March 1995 and 80% work is complete.

(c) Out of the Eighth Five Year Plan provision of Rs. 31.06 crores for improvement of NH-49 (Madurai-Cochin Section), six estimates amounting to Rs. 2.93 crores have been sanctioned in Tamil Nadu. Further seven miscellaneous works (each costing less than Rs. 50 lakhs) amounting to Rs. 1.47 crores have also been sanctioned. In Kerala also 27 miscellaneous works (each costing less than Rs. 50 lakhs) amounting to Rs. 4.48 crores have been sanctioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

(d) The overall improvement of the Ghat Section of NH-49 will be considered after completion of survey and investigation and subject to availability of funds. However, the road, including Ghat Section, is being kept in traffic-worthy condition with spot improvements and special repairs to accident prone reaches and bridges and culverts thereon.

Settlement of Indian claims by UN

*54. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations released US Dollars 642,500 towards compensation in respect of settlement of 167 claims of Indians under 'B' category;

(b) whether any other Indian claims under other categories are still pending with the UN; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to settle the claims of Indians and/or Indian companies by the UN Compensation Commission?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Out of a total of 258 Category 'B' Indian claims sent to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) by 1.1.95 (the final extended date stipulated by the UNCC for receipt of claims in individual Categories A,B,C&D), the UNCC has released payment of US$642,500 for 167 Indian 'B' claims; the remainder of the 'B' claims were either rejected/found to be duplicate or transferred to Category 'C' by the UNCC. In respect of 28 'B' claims, additional medical/legal documents were required to be produced to the UNCC.

Apart from the payment for 167 successful Indian 'B' claims, the UNCC has so far approved for payment 60,320 Indian 'A' claims for US$236.27 million (ex-gratia payment for departure from Kuwait/Iraq), but the actual payment for these Indian 'A' claims is yet to be received from the UNCC. The UNCC has still to scrutinize the balance of the Indian 'A' claims and all 'C', 'D' and 'E'